

Message Text

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ACTION SPC-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5045

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY ROME

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AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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SUBJECT: DROUGHT IN EAST AFRICA - TANZANIA

REF: (A) STATE 057894 (B) DAR ES SALAAM A-15 DATED FEBRUARY 1, 1974

(C) DAR ES SALAAM 0777

1. SUMMARY: TANZANIA IS FACED WITH DIFFICULT DROUGHT PROBLEM BUT SITUATION IN MOST OF COUNTRY IS JUDGED UNDER CONTROL AT THIS TIME. ARUSHA (MASAILAND) AND DODOMA ARE THE HARDEST HIT AREAS AND UPWARDS OF 100,000 PEOPLE MAY BE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY DROUGHT. LOOKING AHEAD, FOOD SHORTAGES SHOULD PERSIST WELL INTO NEXT YEAR AND REQUIRE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TANZANIA TO IMPORT UNPRECEDENTED QUANTITIES OF CORN, WHEAT AND RICE.

TANGOV HAS, THUS FAR, ADEQUATELY ANTICIPATED QUANTITY OF IMPORTS BUT INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IS HEAVILY BURDENED AND KINKS ARE DEVELOPING. END SUMMARY.

2. DROUGHT IS NOT SERIOUS AT PRESENT IN TANZANIA, EXCEPT IN DODOMA AND ARUSHA REGIONS. FOOD PRODUCTION, WHILE BELOW NORMAL LOOKS TO BE ADEQUATE TO COVER NEEDS ON NORMAL BASIS IN MOST RURAL AREAS OF THE COUNTRY UNTIL END OF CALENDAR 1974. SITUATION COMPLICATED BY VERY SMALL "SHORT RAINS" LAST YEAR AND FACT THAT RAINFALL IN SEVERAL PARTS OF COUNTRY HAS BEEN LOW FOR SEVERAL YEARS--THUS CARRY OVER STOCKS GENERALLY VERY LOW ALMOST ACROSS THE COUNTRY. GOVERNMENT HAS RESPONDED, ALBEIT SLOWLY, BY ORDERING WHAT MOST CONSIDER TO BE ADEQUATE STOCKS OF RICE, CORN, AND WHEAT FROM ABROAD. TOTAL PURCHASES LOOK TO BE US \$60 MILLION AND 150,000 TONS. THESE IMPORTS ARE NOW STARTING TO FLOW IN. SLUGGISH DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IS CAUSE FOR SOME SHORTAGES IN DODOMA AND ARUSHA REGIONS AND IN SOME URBAN CENTERS (DAR ES SALAAM, MTWARA AND LINDI). IN ALL FAIRNESS, SITUATION MADE DIFFICULT IN BEGINNING BY TEMPORARY EMBARGO ON CORN SHIPMENTS FROM KENYA AND STOPPAGE OF CORN COMING IN FROM MALAWI. DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD GRAINS STILL REFLECTING THESE UNEXPECTED DISRUPTIONS OF IMPORTS.

3. CURRENT DROUGHT SITUATION IN TANZANIA AS FOLLOWS:

4. MASAILAND (ROUGHLY THOSE AREAS IN ARUSHA REGION BETWEEN 36 AND 37 DEGREE LONGITUDE). DROUGHT MOST SERIOUS IN AREA TO NORTH OF ARUSHA TOWN AND THERE ARE REPORTS OF STARVATION DEATHS. EMBOFF AND AID OFFICIAL REPORT NOT SEEING A BLADE OF GRASS IN AREA IN MID-FEBRUARY. MASAI ARE SUSTAINING SERIOUS LOSSES OF CATTLE AND THOSE WHICH SURVIVE WILL NOT BE PHYSICALLY FIT TO PROVIDE NOURISHMENT FOR MANY MONTHS IF AND WHEN RAIN COMES. MASAI ARE MARKETING CATTLE THROUGH GOVERNMENT ARRANGED AUCTIONS BUT HOLDING YARDS ARE INADEQUATE AND FEED FOR CATTLE HAS NOT BEEN MADE AVAILABLE. CONSEQUENTLY, CATTLE ARE DYING. HOWEVER, MASAI ARE GETTING CASH TO BUY FOOD AND NATIONAL MILLING CORPORATION (NMC--THE STATE-OWNED MILLING AND MARKETING COMPANY) SEEMS TO BE MOUNTING A MAJOR EFFORT TO GET FOOD INTO AREA. (NOTE: USAID AGRICULTURE OFFICIAL TRAVELING NOW THROUGH THIS AREA AND WE HOPE TO HAVE FRESH REPORT BY MID-WEEK.)

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5. DODOMA/SINGIDA. SITUATION IN NORTH MASAILAND IS MORE CRITICAL THAN IN SOUTH MASAILAND AND DODOMA REGION. A YOUNG AMERICAN WITH CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM THREE MONTHS' FIELD WORK IN DODOMA AND SINGIDA, REPORTS SITUATION IN DODOMA AND KONDOA DISTRICTS PARTICULARLY POOR WITH SITUATION IN NORTHERN KNODOA WORST OF ALL. CHILDREN IN THIS AREA PARTICULARLY HARD HIT. VILLAGERS ARE USING SAVINGS TO BUY CORN, WHEN AVAILABLE, AT THREE TIMES PRICE OF FEW MONTHS AGO. DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IS

MAKING ONLY MODEST AMOUNTS OF CORN AVAILABLE AND NMC HOPES TO FILL GAP IN NEXT FEW WEEKS. CHURCHES IN AREA HAVE PITCHED IN TO HELP BUT THEY TOO ARE EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTY IN PURCHASING CORN. USAID/T DIRECTOR TRAVELED IN MPWAPA MID-MARCH FOUND LINES OF PEOPLE WAITING TO BUY CORN MEAL. EMBOFF TRAVELING IN DODOMA REGION IN EARLY MARCH FOUND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DEFINING LOCAL SITUATION AS DROUGHT WITH SPOTTY AREAS OF ADEQUATE RAINFALL. THIS AREA, DOWN TO IRINGA, HAS REACHED POINT WHERE ADDITIONAL RAINFALL, EVEN IF LATE, WILL NOT AID SITUATION. CRS WORKER REPORTS SITUATION IN SINGIDA REGION DIFFICULT BUT NOT QUITE AS BAD AS IN DODOMA AS PATCHES OF RAINFALL SEEM TO HAVE BEEN BROADER THERE.

6. MWANZA/MUSOMA/SHINYANGA/TABORA. THIS LOOKS TO BE GOOD-TO-EXCELLENT YEAR FOR COTTON THUS FAR, BUT AN OFF-YEAR FOR CORN--THE OTHER MAJOR CROP OF THE AREA. HOWEVER, FARMERS HAVE PLANTED MORE CORN THAN NORMAL THIS YEAR AND THIS SHOULD COMPENSATE FOR POOR GROWING CONDITIONS.

7. WEST LAKE REGION. AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS REPORT PREPARED BY STATE WHEAT FARM MANAGER SUGGESTS RAINFALL DISAPPOINTINGLY LOW THUS FAR. THIS COULD INDICATE A REPEAT OF LAST YEAR'S SITUATION WHICH AFFECTED MOSTLY CASH CROPS--COFFEE AND TEA. IN GENERAL, FOOD CROPS IN AREA AMPLE BUT REDUCED RAINFALL, IF PRESENT PATTERN CONTINUES, WILL LIMIT AMOUNT OF FOOD THAT CAN BE EXPORTED TO NEIGHBORING REGIONS OF TANZANIA.

8. KIGOMA. SPOTTY REPORTS FROM REGION INDICATED CONDITION NORMAL. HOPE TO HAVE MORE COMPLETE REPORT BY APRIL 1.

9. IRINGA/MBEYA/SUMBAWANGA. TWO SKILLED AGRICULTURALISTS (USAID/T DIRECTOR AND CANADIAN AID TECHNICIAN) TOURED AREA IN MID-MARCH AND FOUND MOST OF AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN GOOD SHAPE. IMPORTANT EXCEPTION IS MAJOR CORN PRODUCING AREA NORTH OF IRINGA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH HAS HAD TO REPLANT, BECAUSE OF LOW RAINFALL, AND OUTLOOK FOR SECOND PLANTING IS BLEAK. TO THE WEST, LEADER FROM LARGE UJAMAA VILLAGE IN WHEAT GROWING AREA BETWEEN MBEYA AND LAKE NYASA TOLD EMBOFF MARCH 23 THAT RAINFALL WAS LOWER THAN NORMAL BEFORE PLANTING THIS MONTH.

10. SOUTHERN TANZANIA. PICTURE HERE VERY CLOUDY AND INFORMATION SKETCHY. BANK OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT SITUATION IN MTWARA AREA APPEARED TO BE NORMAL AND AMERICAN MISSIONARY WHO TRAVELS IN LINDI HINTERLAND SAYS SITUATION THERE ALSO NORMAL. MISSIONARY MENTIONED HOWEVER THAT RFUJI RIVER FLOODING MUCH BELOW NORMAL THIS YEAR--SUGGESTING DRIER THAN NORMAL GROWING CONDITIONS IN ITS WATER SHED. MISSIONARY ALSO NOTES HE HAD SEEN CASES IN LINDI WHERE PEOPLE REDUCED TO EATING GRASS. AGAIN THIS SITUATION RELATED MORE TO POOR COASTAL SHIPPING SERVICE, WHICH IS NOT TRANSPORTING SUFFICIENT

FOOD FROM DAR ES SALAAM, THAN CLIMATIC CONDITIONS. SITUATION COMPLICATED, HOWEVER, BY REDUCED SUPPLIES OF CORN, WHEAT AND MAIZE IN DAR ES SALAAM.

11. MOROGORO. DRIER THAN NORMAL GROWING CONDITIONS PREVAIL BUT CROPS LOOK REASONABLY GOOD. STILL A SURPLUS REGION BUT LESS SO THAN IN YEARS PAST.

12. COASTAL REGIONS (DAR AND TANGA). NEAR ADEQUATE RAINFALL SUGGESTS A NEAR NORMAL HARVEST THIS YEAR. TWO CITIES IN AREA, HOWEVER, ARE EXPERIENCING SOME SHORTAGES DUE TO DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS AND, IN CASE OF DAR, WILL CONTINUE FOR SOME MONTHS AHEAD. SITUATION IN NATIONAL CAPITAL IS POSING POLITICAL PROBLEM OF HOW MUCH SHOULD BE HELD IN DAR IN RELATIONSHIP TO SHIPMENTS TO HARDEST HIT AREAS UP COUNTRY.

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USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE
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13. MT. MERU/KILIMANJARO WHEAT AREAS (INCLUDING WHEAT AREAS BEHIND LAKE MANYARA IN HANANG DISTRICT). GREATLY REDUCED WINTER CROP-- ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF NORMAL-- JUST FINISHED COMING TO MARKET. ILLUSTRATES IMPACT OF ALMOST NON-EXISTENT "SHORT RAINS" OF LAST FALL. OUTLOOK FOR NEXT CROP (JUST NOW BEING PLANTED FOR HARVEST IN AUGUST) NOT BRIGHT AS 50-80 PERCENT OF WHEAT LAND APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN PUT INTO BEAN PRODUCTION WHICH GIVES FAR GREATER RETURN TO LARGE WHEAT FARMERS IN AREA (SEE FOOTNOTE ON PAGE 11 OF REF B). FARMERS AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS HAVE APPEALED LOW PRICES TO GOVERNMENT BUT TO NO AVAIL. SINCE AREA GROWS 90 PERCENT ABOVE TANZANIA'S WHEAT, THIS TRANSLATES INTO GREATER IMPORTS OF WHEAT IN PROSPECT NEXT YEAR. MP WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM KILIMANJARO REGION EXPLAINED TO AMB TODAY HARDEST HIT DISTRICTS IN REGION
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ARE ROMBO AND PARE ALTHOUGH ENTIRE AREA IS EXPERIENCING SERIOUS SHORTAGE OF RAIN.

14. RE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS RAISED IN PARA 3 OF REFTTEL:

A. NUMBER OF PEOPLE AFFECTED: APPROXIMATELY HALF MILLION ALTHOUGH THOSE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED PROBABLY NUMBER ONLY ONE-FIFTH THAT NUMBER (OF WHICH APPROXIMATELY 50,000 IN MASAILAND). THESE ARE VERY ROUGH ESTIMATES.

B. IMPACT ON FOOD PRODUCTION: THE MAIN IMPACT AND CRITICAL SHORTAGES OF FOOD ARE IN THE GRAIN CROPS, SUCH AS CORN, THE BASIC FOOD CROP, WHEAT, AND RICE TO SOME EXTENT. WE ESTIMATE THIS YEAR THAT MAIZE WILL BE NO MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF NORMAL, THE WHEAT CROP 40-50 PERCENT OF NORMAL, AND RICE ABOUT 50 PERCENT. UNFORTUNATELY THESE ARE THE CROPS THAT HAVE MOST POLITICAL OVERTONES. CITY AND TOWN MARKETS SEEM TO BE FAIRLY WELL FURNISHED WITH VEGETABLES,

BANANAS, POTATOES, ETC. LIVESTOCK IN TANZANIA ARE HARDY-TYPES. NEVERTHELESS, MANY HERDS HAVE BEEN WEAKENED BY PRESENT DROUGHT CONDITIONS.

IF THIS DOES NOT OCCUR ON THE RANGE, IT USUALLY DOES WHEN CATTLE ARE SOLD AND PLACED ON HOLDING RANCHES UNTIL SALE. THESE HOLDING GROUNDS ARE ALSO SUBJECT TO DROUGHT CONDITIONS AND LITTLE OR NO GRASS IS AVAILABLE. CATTLE BECOME TOO WEAK TO TREK TO MARKET AND RAILWAY CARS SEEM NOT TO BE AVAILABLE IN MANY PLACES. THIS PROBLEM COULD INTENSIFY.

C. HOST GOVERNMENT'S CAPABILITY TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM: TANZANIA MAY IMPORT AS MUCH AS 200,000 TONS OF MIXED GRAINS IN 1974. ITS ABILITY TO CONTINUE TO IMPORT WILL DEPEND ON ITS FOREIGN EXCHANGE POSITION, DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH LOANS OR GRANTS,

AND FOOD AVAILABILITY OUTSIDE TANZANIA. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PICTURE HAS ALREADY BEEN PROJECTED IN DEFICIT THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF HIGHER COST OF REGULAR IMPORTS (PARTICULARLY CRUDE OIL-- ESTIMATED TO INCREASE BY \$45 MILLION). ADDED BURDEN OF \$60 MILLION FOR FOODSTUFFS WILL ONLY RENDER SITUATION MORE DIFFICULT. (TANZANIA HAD FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES OF \$125 MILLION AT END OF 1973.) FURTHERMORE, OUTLOOK FOR 1975 NO LESS GRIM. AS PARAS 2 THROUGH 13 SUGGEST, DROUGHT CONDITIONS WILL CAUSE FOODSTUFF PRO-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DUCTION TO DECLINE IN 1974 WITH THE RESULT THAT IMPORTS SHOULD CLIMB FURTHER IN 1975.

D. INDICATIONS OF OTHER DONORS: BEYOND CURRENT IMPORTS AND ODD NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, TANGOV HAS NOT YET INDICATED SERIOUS CONCERN OVER PROBLEM. HENCE THERE HAS BEEN ONLY SPOTTY INTEREST IN PROBLEM, BUT MEETING THIS WEEK, CALLED BY UNDP, APPEARS TO HAVE SET WHEELS IN MOTION TO BRING IN ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER AID DONORS. (REPORT ON THIS DEVELOPMENT WILL FOLLOW.) CHURCH GROUPS-- SOUTHERN BAPTISTS, CARITAS, CRS AND ANGLICANS ARE TAKING ACTIVE INTEREST IN PROBLEM BUT RESOURCES VERY LIMITED BECAUSE GOOD PORTION THEIR EFFORT ALREADY BEING FULLY USED BY REFUGEES IN SETTLEMENTS IN TANZANIA. AS REPORTED DAR ES SALAAM 881, ULYANKULU BURUNDI REFUGEE SETTLEMENT LOCATED NORTHWEST OF TABORA IS EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT. SITUATION MAY RESULT IN REQUEST TO USG FOR EMERGENCY AIR SHIPMENT OF WELL DRILLING EQUIPMENT. OTHER BURUNDI REFUGEE SETTLEMENT, KATUMBA IN WESTERN TANZANIA, HAS AMPLE RAINFALL.

15. FACTORS THAT WOULD HAMPER RELIEF EFFORTS:

A. TRANSPORT: THIS SEEMS LIKELY TO BE THE MOST DIFFICULT ASPECT OF DROUGHT RELIEF PROBLEM. EVEN IN BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES TANZANIA HAS A DIFFICULT TRANSPORT PROBLEM WHICH WILL ONLY BE COMPOUNDED BY ADDITION OF RELIEF SHIPMENTS INTO DROUGHT AREAS. SITUATION FURTHER COMPLICATED BY DISRUPTION OF MOMBASA/MOSHI RAIL SERVICE (SEE REF C) WHICH ARE SLOWING SHIPMENTS OF KENYAN CORN INTO NORTHERN TANZANIA. DISRUPTION OF RAIL LINK WITH KENYA ALSO RESTRICTS FUEL SHIPMENTS FOR RAIL AND ROAD SERVICES IN NORTHERN PART OF COUNTRY WHICH ADDING TO DIFFICULTY OF DISTRIBUTING CORN IMPORTS FROM DAR ES SALAAM PORT. FURTHERMORE, TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM BURDENED BY FACT THAT ONLY FLOUR MILL OPERATING IN TANZANIA IS IN ARUSHA. THIS REQUIRES ALL WHEAT IMPORTS, AT PRESENT, BE SENT TO ARUSHA FOR MILLING AND LATER DISTRIBUTION. THIS PARTICULAR ASPECT OF PROBLEM SHOULD EASE COMPLETELY IN LATE JUNE WHEN FLOUR MILL IN DAR RE-OPENS WITH DOUBLED CAPACITY.

B. STORAGE: SITUATION WILL BE TIGHT, CONSIDERING THE VOLUME BEING IMPORTED THIS YEAR. ONLY DIFFICULTY EXPECTED (AND REAL POSSIBILITY) WOULD BE CAUSED BY A BUNCH-UP OF SHIP ARRIVALS.

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C. ROADS: ROADS ARE IN VERY POOR STATE OF REPAIR IN GOOD
DEAL OF COUNTRY. MOVEMENT IS SLOW AND WEAR AND TEAR ON VEHICLES
WILL BE SIGNIFICANT--CAUSING DELAYS AND DIFFICULTY IN HIRING
TRANSPORT. IN AREAS WORST-AFFECTED BY DROUGHT, ROAD NETWORK IS
POOR MAKING IT DIFFICULT TO REACH PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY ISOLATED
CATTLE HERDERS, IN REMOTE AREAS.

D. WEAT
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